

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 091540 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2029

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5267

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR LE

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR SEA EVACUATION

REF: STATE 86829

1. CURRENT UPDATED ESTIMATES AS FOLLOWS (TITLES AND
PARAGRAPH NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO THOSE IN BEIRUT A-188):

5. AMERICAN RESIDENTS 5,000

6. AMERICAN TOURISTS 1,000

7. OTHER POTENTIAL EVACUEES 1,000

2. ESTIMATE OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS INCLUDES 4,500
REGISTERED WITH EMBASSY, REFLECTING SIGNIFICANT INCREASE
IN AMERICANS REGISTERED SINCE APRIL 10 ISRAELI RAID.
LOWER TOURIST ESTIMATE REFLECTS RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL.

3. GIVEN THE UNDERLYING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH EVACUATION
BY SEA WOULD PRESUMABLY ' TAKE PLACE, I. E. LACK OF ACCESS TO AIR-
PORT, WE ESTIMATE THAT LARGER PERCENTAGE OF THE 7,000
EVACUEES IN PARAGRAPH ONE WOULD DEPART COMPARED TO
JUNE 1967 EVACUATION. BEST ESTIMATE WE THINK IS
6,000 EXCLUDING OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS.

4. WE BELIEVE ABOVE ESTIMATE OF " OTHER POTENTIAL
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EVACUEES" IS CONSERVATIVE. FIGURE REPRESENTS PRIMARILY ALIEN DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS. IF CONDITIONS IN LEBANON LEAVE SEA EVACUATION AS ONLY ALTERNATIVE, AND PORT NOT ACCESSIBLE, IT PROBABLE THAT SOME OTHER NATIONALS SUCH AS BRITISH, CANADIAN, DUTCH, ETC. WOULD TURN TO US FOR EVACUATION AND THUS INCREASE THE TOTAL. AT THIS POINT WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT WISH TO CONTACT OTHER MISSIONS FOR THEIR PREDICTIONS.
HOUGHTON

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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